

on February 5th, met French elements advancing north at Rouffach. French forces completed the cleansing of the Pocket and destruction of the enemy's final bridge across the Rhine at Chalampe on 9 February 9th, 1945. For this final phase of the fight, one more Medal of Honor was awarded to the 3rd Infantry Division's T/5 Forrest E. Peden.

The Battle of the Colmar Pocket, overshadowed by the Battle of the Bulge to the north, saw some of the bitterest fighting of the war and resulted in the award of the Presidential Unit Citation to the entire 3rd Infantry Division with its attachments, as well as the award of the fourragère of the Croix de Guerre embroidered Colmar. The 109th Infantry Regiment of the 28th Infantry Division was also awarded the fourragère.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in congratulating and thanking the surviving veterans of the Battle of the Colmar Pocket on the upcoming 67th anniversary of this battle which liberated Colmar and cleared the Germans from southern Alsace. I especially would like to express my thanks and admiration to Major General Ramsey for his outstanding combat leadership at Colmar and throughout his illustrious military career.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,110,498,560,876.77. We've added \$10,309,093,385,852.49 to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

U.S. CITIZEN OF DISTINCTION CORPORAL/DETECTIVE ROBERT "SHANE" WILSON

#### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I declare Robert "Shane" Wilson U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one man . . . who has given of himself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, Corporal/Detective Robert "Shane" Wilson served eight (8) years in the City of Doraville Police Department and gave his life answering a call to duty; and

Whereas, Corporal/Detective Wilson never asked for fame or fortune, nor found a job too small or too big; but gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life to uplift those in need by demonstrating unwavering commitment to protecting and serving the citizens of Doraville and DeKalb County; and

Whereas, he was a husband, a father, a son, a brother and a friend; he was also our

warrior, a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting and service to our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia recognizes Corporal/Detective Robert "Shane" Wilson as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby attest to the 112th Congress that Corporal/Detective Robert "Shane" Wilson is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honor" by declaring Corporal/Detective Robert "Shane" Wilson U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 17th day of November, 2011.

#### WORKFORCE DEMOCRACY AND FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3094) to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to representation hearings and the timing of elections of labor organizations under that Act.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3094, the so-called Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act of 2011.

Since coming to Congress, I have been a strong advocate for the right of every employee to form a union and collectively bargain for their rights. This bill represents the most recent attempt to put the interests of businesses over the rights of workers, another in a long line of Republican attempts to strip these fundamental rights from working Americans.

H.R. 3094 is designed to derail fair, legal union elections by mandating delays and encouraging frivolous, distracting lawsuits. At a time when we should be pursuing policies that will strengthen our workforce and support the middle class, this bill will only make it harder for working families to maintain their pay checks, secure health insurance, plan for retirement, and achieve the American Dream.

As our economy continues to recover, it is my hope that Congress can come together to pass legislation that puts Americans back to work and maintains the strongest and most competitive workforce in the world. H.R. 3094 will not achieve either of these goals, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

#### HONORING SGT. ARNOLD TRUITT DIXON

#### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sgt. Arnold Truitt Dixon, a veteran of World War II, who is celebrating his 90th birthday on January 1, 2012.

Sgt. Arnold Dixon, as he was known in the military, was known to those at home simply

as Truitt. Truitt is the eldest son of Mattie and Henry Dixon, born on January 1, 1922, in Ada, Oklahoma. He migrated to California in 1940, and married Lena Owens on November 11, 1941. Their only daughter Janice was born on October 13, 1942. Unfortunately, Lena passed away in January 1985, after a long illness. Soon thereafter, Jacquie entered his life and they were married on March 9, 1985.

Truitt and Lena were happily married with a two-year old daughter, when the call came from the United States Army to report for active duty. On September 16, 1944, Truitt reported to duty at Fort Ord, California. Basic training was very tough. He was being trained as a Combat Infantryman and took his training very seriously, which would pay off in the later years of his army career.

With basic training and schooling completed, Truitt was aboard a troop ship with thousands of other soldiers travelling to parts unknown. After days of sailing, it was finally announced their destination was the Philippine Islands. After landing in the Philippines patrols were formed to find the remaining Japanese soldiers. His leadership earned him promotions quickly, from private, to private first class and to corporal in a very short time. His ability to lead and the fact that he was an expert marksman earned him the "Combat Infantryman's Badge" in late 1944, just after landing in the Philippines.

In late 1944, General Douglas MacArthur, as promised, returned to the Philippines. Orders went out to all Combat Divisions in the Pacific command to select ten of their best soldiers for assignment to General Headquarters in Manila. The selection criteria for those men were exceptionally high. They must have a score of 110 or better on the Army General Classification Test, must have an excellent service record as a combat soldier, be of good physique and over five feet ten inches tall, and finally, they must have a soldierly appearance. PFC. Arnold Truitt Dixon was selected as one of the 10 soldiers from the 105th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division.

All the chosen men reported to Manila to form Honor Guard Company "E." To quote their commanding officer, "These 200 soldiers chosen for Honor Guard had fought the Japanese on the beaches, in the jungles, and in the mountains. They represented all the fighting men of the Southwest Pacific Area. This unit was probably the sharpest most elite unit formed during World War II."

The Japanese surrender brought numerous Japanese officers from Tokyo to Manila to formalize the papers that needed to be signed for the official surrender. Truitt was on duty as those officials arrived and remembers the American officer in charge ordering the Japanese to remove their ceremonial swords before entering the building. As he stood by as part of the Honor Guard on duty that night, one of the officers was quoted as saying, "This is the first time that many members of Company 'E' had ever looked upon a Japanese, except over gun sights and, though many a trigger finger itched, the conference was carried out in perfect order."

It was not long after the surrender was formalized that Company "E" was alerted for transfer to Tokyo, Japan and was among the first United States soldiers to arrive in Japan. After staying two days in a silk factory, Company "E" moved on to Tokyo, where they were billeted in the Finance Building. Guarding